

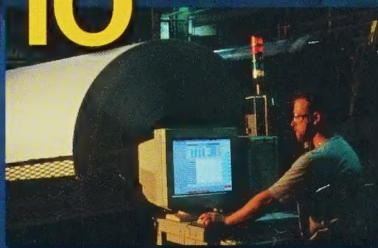
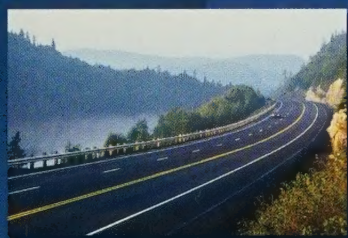
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A focal point for *economic development* in

Northern Ontario



Ontario

WORKING TOGETHER to support *the North*

A UNIQUE REGION

Northern Ontario's vast, sparsely populated area and distinct economy require a unique approach to economic and social development.

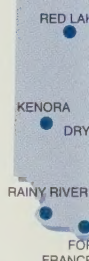
Northern Ontario comprises more than 88 per cent of the provincial land mass and has a population of approximately 887,000 – 7.6 per cent of the provincial total. Nearly half of all northerners live in small, rural communities, the majority of which have populations under 2,000.

The North's economy is primarily resource-based, forestry and mining being the traditional engines of growth. Northern communities are building beyond their strengths in natural resources, diversifying local economies through the installation of advanced, high-speed telecommunication networks, resulting in rapid growth in high-tech, telecommunications-based industries.

A FOCAL POINT for *Economic Development* IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Recognizing the North's uniqueness, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has established an integrated network of area teams to serve as the focal point for economic development in Northern Ontario. Working together, area teams deliver the province's economic and social development programs and services in the North. In addition, area teams gather northern perspectives and input on provincial policy and program development. Area teams also promote trade and investment marketing opportunities by highlighting the North's competitive advantages at national and international trade shows and conventions.

With expertise in key economic sectors, including tourism, mining, forest products, agriculture, business/industry and aboriginal economic development, as well as community development and health/social, area teams support the development of a healthy, competitive and sustainable northern economy.



KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS

Forest Products:

Ontario's forest products industry exports approximately \$8 billion worth of products annually. Exports are predominately primary or commodity products such as newsprint, market pulp, lumber, and composite panels. The majority of the province's pulp and paper mills and nearly all of its sawmills are located in the North. Direct employment in the forest products and services sector in Northern Ontario is approximately 30,000.



Mining:

Mining in Ontario generates over \$5 billion in mineral production annually and accounts for over 20,000 direct jobs.

Significant amounts of nickel, copper, gold, cobalt, and zinc are mined in the North each year. Over 98 per cent of active mining claims in Ontario are located in the North.

Tourism:

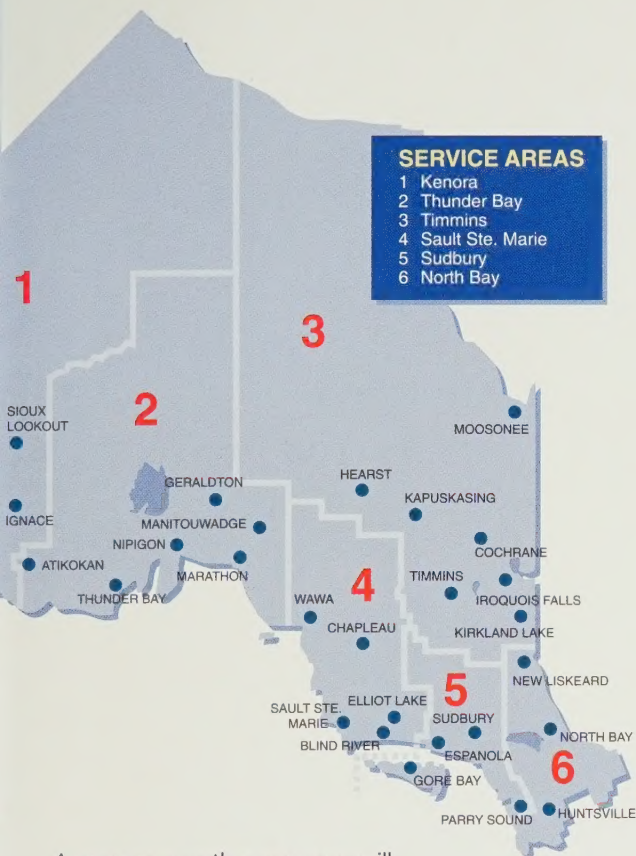
Tourists spend nearly \$1.5 billion in Northern Ontario each year, providing jobs for approximately 30,000 people. Over 10 million person-visits are made each year to the North. Resource-based tourism activities account for a significant portion of total visits.



Agriculture:

With 3,600 census farms, Northern Ontario produces approximately \$170 million in agriculture sales annually. Only a small portion of Northern Ontario's landmass is suitable for agriculture. Small pockets of activity dot the North in areas such as Temiskaming, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, and Manitoulin Island. Dairy and beef production are the dominant sectors of agricultural activity in the North, representing the vast majority of total sales.





A prosperous northern economy will combine the strengths of the North's resource industries with the emerging opportunities of the information and service-based economy.

Business and Industry:

Approximately 600 manufacturing firms operate in Northern Ontario. They employ over 45,000 workers, producing a broad and expanding range of products worth nearly \$10 billion annually. Approximately 150,000 northerners are employed in community, business and personal services. Over 4,000 retail establishments sell an estimated \$8 billion worth of merchandise on an annual basis.



Aboriginal:

With over 100 First Nations and a rapidly growing youth population in Northern Ontario, Aboriginal economic development represents an important part of the northern economy. Aboriginal people depend upon the land for traditional pursuits such as trapping, hunting, fishing and gathering. Aboriginal communities and companies are becoming increasingly involved in key sectoral areas including forestry and mining. Notable strides have also been made in niche markets including cultural tourism events and attractions, skilled trades, and the service sector.





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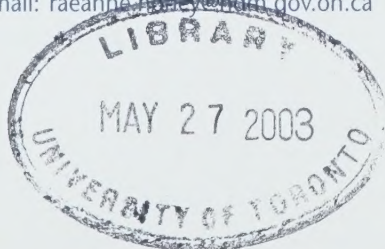
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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines delivers and/or promotes a variety of programs and services in the North relating to community and regional economic development. Following is a list of some of the programs and services available to northerners. Please note that the list is not all inclusive. Area team staff are available to provide advice and information regarding other provincial initiatives and policies. We encourage all clients to maintain regular contact with their local MNDM representative. A staff directory of MNDM representatives is included with this brochure.

BUSINESS SUPPORT:

Small Business Self-Help Offices

Provides services for start-up businesses, including providing direct one-on-one consultations, access to a variety of business related publications, guidance on licenses, permits and registration, reviewing and critiquing business plans, as well as access to the Internet and computer workstations for business planning and research.

Small Business Enterprise Centres

Provides enhanced services to existing businesses during the critical early years of operation, such as access to information on importing, exporting, patents, copyrights, and trademarks.

Business Consulting Services

Offers advice and information on strategic business planning, sourcing of new ideas, products and services, adoption of new technology to increase profits and reduce costs, domestic and export market development, financing, and improving business competitiveness.

Trade and Investment Marketing

Promotes the export of goods and services from Northern Ontario and markets the North as an excellent place to live, invest in, and do business. MNDM staff coordinate and participate in trade shows, conferences, investment seminars, as well as incoming and outgoing missions.

TOURISM:

Tourism Consulting

Provides professional advice for tourist operators on strategic planning, improving competitiveness, marketing, operational consultations, and financing.

Tourism Licensing

Provides consulting services regarding the tourism licensing process, requirements of the *Tourism Act* and regulations, and identifies whether other approvals for a license are required.

Resource-Based Tourism Diversification Program

Assists eligible participants in the resource-based sector to expand beyond traditional fishing and hunting outfitting markets to newly emerging markets for eco-tourism, adventure tourism and specialty outdoors tourism activities.

AGRICULTURE:

Agricultural and Horticultural Societies

Encourages an awareness of agriculture and promotes improvements in the quality of life of those living in agricultural communities.

Leadership and Organizational Development

Provides consulting services to a number of agricultural and rural organizations across Northern Ontario in areas such as leadership, organizational development, volunteer and meeting management, communication, and change.

Veterinary Assistance Program

Promotes the viability of the livestock industry by ensuring access to "large animal" veterinary services by providing basic financial support to participating veterinarians.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation

Provides funding for infrastructure improvements and development opportunities in Northern Ontario. Program areas include telecommunications, infrastructure, tourism, strategic partnerships and community foundations.

Local Services Boards Program

Supports volunteer boards in areas without municipal structure. The boards may arrange for the provision of services such as water supply, fire protection, garbage collection, sewage, street or area lighting, recreation, roads, and public library services.

Business Retention and Expansion

Encourages the growth and stability of local businesses through a community-based, volunteer driven economic development tool.

The Investment Readiness Test: A Self-Assessment Tool for Northern Communities

Supports northern communities in their efforts to facilitate local and regional economic development by helping them to assess and improve their investment readiness through a self-diagnostic tool.

SuperBuild Ontario Small Town and Rural Development Initiative

Provides investment over five years for infrastructure and economic development.

SuperBuild Millennium Partnerships

Over five years, supports investment in public infrastructure through public-private partnerships in large urban centres.

SuperBuild Sports, Culture, and Tourism Partnerships

Provides investment over five years to renew, enhance and improve local sports, recreation, culture, and tourism facilities.

Area Services Boards

Supports northern communities wishing to establish area-wide service delivery boards.

ABORIGINAL:

Aboriginal Community Capital Infrastructure Program

Provides capital assistance for operational indoor plumbing for residential homes in remote First Nations in Northern Ontario.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL:

Violence Against Women Prevention Initiative

Provides funding to support northern organizations that offer violence against women prevention programs. This initiative increases the accessibility of prevention services and public education and assists survivors of violence by improving the accessibility of outreach and self-help programs.

Health Professionals Recruitment Tour

Facilitates the recruitment of physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and other health care professionals to northern and rural Ontario communities by providing community representatives with the opportunity to speak directly to students and professionals regarding the advantages and career opportunities available in their community.

YOUTH:

Summer Jobs Service

Provides an hourly wage subsidy to employers, including businesses and community organizations, that employ students for the summer.

TRANSPORTATION:

Northern Highways Program

Supports the ongoing rehabilitation and expansion of the North's more than 10,000 kilometre highway network, including the four-laning of major highways.

Local Roads Boards Program

Supports the maintenance and construction of 7,000 kilometres of local roads through more than 300 Local Roads Boards, Statute Labour Boards, and Special Maintenance Agreements with cottagers and First Nations.

Resource Access Roads Program

Supports the construction and reconstruction of more than 10,000 kilometres of forest access roads in the North. This road system provides access to Crown timber and mineral resources, provides recreational access for northern residents and tourists, and facilitates the province's resource management activities.

Winter Roads Program

Supports the construction and maintenance of a winter road system to 30 remote northern First Nation communities that do not have permanent road access. Winter road access along the 2,700 kilometre network allows communities to reduce transportation and construction costs and encourage social interaction.

Logistics Consulting Service

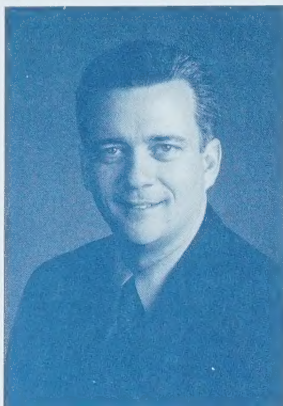
Assists businesses in Northern Ontario to find practical, cost-effective solutions to distribution challenges.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Government
Publications

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The Ontario government is committed to the development of economic and social conditions that foster long-term stability and prosperity in Northern Ontario. A strong and healthy northern economy will provide meaningful employment today and opportunities for our children in the future.

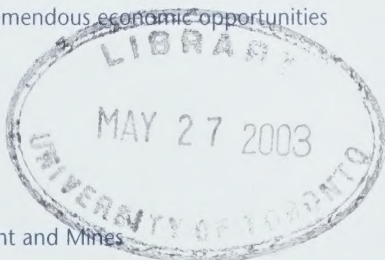
Our government is helping to spur economic growth in the North by cutting taxes, providing record-level funding to rebuild Northern Ontario highways, and marketing the region's competitive advantages at national and international trade shows and conventions. The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) will invest \$300 million over the next five years in five key areas: infrastructure, telecommunications, tourism, community foundations and strategic partnerships. With this approach, we are able to efficiently and effectively deliver a wide range of economic development programs and services.

In 1997, as part of our government's commitment to improve access to government programs and services in Northern Ontario, we developed an integrated approach for delivering regional economic development programs and services. While continuing to specialize in key economic sectors, including forest products, mining, tourism, agriculture, aboriginal economic development, and manufacturing and services, our area teams have been expanded to include the health and community development sectors.

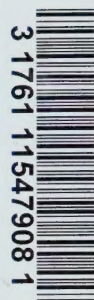
This brochure provides an overview of our programs and services, and a directory of our area team staff. I encourage you to keep it handy as a guide to our government's economic development resources in Northern Ontario. We are here to serve you and look forward to working with you as we continue to explore the tremendous economic opportunities available in the North.

Dan Newman

Minister of Northern Development and Mines



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



www.gov.on.ca/MNDM

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